

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06107 052145Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2934

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6107

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US IS EG

SUBJ: ISRAELI ACTIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 6106 (B) TEL AVIV 6105

1. DATT AND ARMA MET AT 1900 HOURS, SEPT 5, WITH GENERAL GAZIT
IDF DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTEL., IDF CHIEF OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS
AND HIS DEPUTY.

2. DATT PRESENTED SAME DEMARCHE AS THAT MADE TO EVRON (REF A).

3. GEN GAZIT STATED HE WOULD PASS ON MESSAGE, BUT PROTEST WAS
BEING SUBMITTED TO HIM AS OPPOSED TO MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
DATT EXPLAINED THAT PROTEST WAS ALSO BEING MADE TO MINFORAFF;
HOWEVER, IDF INTEL HAD BEEN THE AGENCY WHICH HAD BEEN BRIEFING
US ATTACHES THROUGHOUT INCIDENT.

4. GEN GAZIT THEN STATED THAT USG KNEW EXACTLY WHAT ISRAELI
POSITION WAS AND THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT PERMIT DRILLING. HE
EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT SUCH AN ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE. ARMA
ASKED IF IT WAS GENERAL GAZIT'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE USG HAD
BEEN INFORMED THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT PERMIT DRILLING. GAZIT'S
RESPONSE WAS THAT, BASED UPON WHAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD AND READ,
THIS WAS THE CASE.

5. GAZIT THEN STATED THAT THE SINKING OF BOUYS TO EAST OF MEDIAN
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 06107 052145Z

LINE IS A ROUTINE ACTION ON THE PART OF THE IDF. ISRAEL CANNOT

PERMIT ANYTHING FLOATING IN THE OPEN SEA WHERE ISRAELI CRAFT ARE MANEUVERING AT NIGHT. THE ORDER GIVEN IS TO "DOWN IT" AND THIS HAS BEEN DONE "QUITE A BIT" IN THE GULF OF SUEZ AND ELSEWHERE.

6. THE FACT THAT THE BOUYS WERE U.S. PROPERTY DOES NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO BE EAST OF THE MEDIAN LINE WHERE THEY WERE A THREAT TO NAVIGATION.

7. GEN GAZIT, STATING THAT HE WAS NOW SPEAKING PRIVATELY AND NOT FOR IDF, SAID THAT THE SEA AREA EAST OF THE MEDIAN LINE IS UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY CONTROL. ISRAEL, IF SHE IS TO PROTECT HERSELF, CANNOT AND WILL NOT PERMIT ANY EGYPTIAN MILITARY OR CIVILIAN OPERATIONS IN THIS AREA UNTIL ISRAEL IS AT PEACE WITH EGYPT.

8. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO WHY ATTACHES WERE NOT GIVEN CORRECT INFO REGARDING SINKING OF BOUYS UNTIL 1000 HOURS SEP 5 WHEN IDF GHQ HAD BEEN NOTIFIED ABOUT 0300 (REF B), GEN GAZIT INDICATED THAT ENTIRE GHQ HAD BECOME COMPLETELY INVOLVED IN KLM HIJACKING INCIDENT AND OTHER SUBJECTS HAD THEREFORE TAKEN BACK SEAT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HARASSMENT, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV06107
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760337-0266
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760988/aaaacxon.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 TEL AVIV 6106, 76 TEL AVIV 6105
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI ACTIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ
TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, EG, AMOCO
To: STATE CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006